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SENATE RESOLUTION 8
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and thank Clara Haluska Fodor for her donation of fifty wall hangings to the Tennessee State Museum.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize and express our gratitude to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of their time and talents to the betterment of the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Clara Haluska Fodor is one such remarkable woman who generously donated fifty exquisite wall hangings to the Tennessee State Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fodor appliqued, embroidered, and quilted a wall hanging to commemorate each state in the union; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Cogswell, director of folklife for the Tennessee Arts Commission, has said, "these fifty wall hangings represent almost fifteen years of hard work and one woman's dedication to her craft and her country"; and

WHEREAS, Clara H. Fodor was born in Hungary and immigrated to the United States at the age of seventeen in 1938; and

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WHEREAS, in 1940, she was happily joined in marriage with Eugene Fodor and the couple was blessed with three wonderful children; and

WHEREAS, after the birth of their children, Clara Fodor returned to school earning a degree in education from Michigan State University, and subsequently taught fifth and sixth grade school children; and

WHEREAS, after a distinguished career in teaching, Clara Haluska Fodor retired in 1971 to care for her husband who was ill; and, in 1981, she moved, with her husband, to Tennessee, settling in the community of Linden; and

WHEREAS, Clara Fodor, as a child in Hungary suffered from poor eyesight and was unable to study the handwork taught in school; the only training she received in embroidery was watching her childhood neighbor embroider traditional Hungarian motifs; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1950s Mrs. Fodor produced many hundreds of pieced and appliqued quilts, most of which she generously gave away; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished seamstress, Clara Haluska Fodor completed a quilt, in 1974, that utilized as design elements all of the fifty states, official birds and flowers; and

WHEREAS, to honor the state of Michigan, her home for over twenty-five years, she embroidered a wall hanging with the state flag, bird, and flower; wall hangings of Kentucky and New Jersey soon followed; and

WHEREAS, Clara Haluska Fodor's 1974 bird and state flower quilt, affection for her new homeland, and her love of embroidery all served as inspiration for her series of fifty state wall hangings; and

WHEREAS, she completed the last of the fifty wall hangings in 1994; each wall hanging contains the state's flag, bird, and flower, and also selected people or landmarks associated with each state; and

WHEREAS, Clara H. Fodor extensively researched the history and symbols of each state, and carefully selected design elements that would highlight each state's majestic and noble history; and

WHEREAS, each lovely wall hanging represents 500 to 800 hours of intricate uniform embroidery; and

WHEREAS, Clara Haluska Fodor's work has been exhibited in Michigan and Tennessee for the past fifteen years; and thanks to her gracious gift to the state of Tennessee, her fifty wall hangings will now have a home at the Tennessee State Museum; and

WHEREAS, Clara Fodor's wall hangings will educate, beautify and enrich the lives of the citizens of this great state; and

WHEREAS, Clara H. Fodor's artistry and generosity should be especially recognized and are deserving of the admiration and gratitude of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize Clara Haluska Fodor for her patriotic spirit and artistic accomplishments, and impart our heartfelt gratitude for her generous donation of her fifty state wall hangings to the Tennessee State Museum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Clara Haluska Fodor our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.